

SENATE BILL 508

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to the election of the director of schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) The office of research and education accountability (OREA) in the office of the comptroller of the treasury, with the assistance of the department of education and LEAs, shall examine the issue of amending Tennessee Code Annotated, § 49-2-203(a)(14), to allow LEAs to elect a director of schools instead of allowing the local board of education to appoint the director of schools. OREA shall report on the effectiveness of local boards of education in appointing directors of schools, as has been the case since the passage of the Education Improvement Act (EIA) of 1992.

Specifically, OREA shall address the following:

- (1) Has enacting the EIA changed the demographics of Tennessee directors of schools;
- (2) How do Tennessee directors of schools feel about the current appointment process;
- (3) In general, how do other stakeholders feel about the selection process;
- (4) Has the nature of the politics that surrounds local directors of schools changed;
- (5) Does the method of selecting directors of schools have a measurable impact on student achievement;

(6) How prevalent is popular election as a method of directors of schools selection nationally, if at all; and

(7) How do Tennessee directors' of schools qualifications compare to other states?

(b) OREA shall make findings and recommendations as to whether the state will benefit in allowing local boards of education to continue to appoint the director of schools or if the people shall elect the director of schools. OREA shall submit its report to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives by February 1, 2019.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.